

OLD COMMONWEALTH

Harrisonburg, Va., June 6, 1878.

Breeding and Management of Cows.

Who is to grow the calves for the future beef and dairies of the country, is likely to become an important question. Probably it can be done at the West and Southwest. Even here the improved stock can be grown profitably; but with ordinary native cattle this cannot be done. It costs more to keep an ordinary calf till it is one, two or three years old than the animal is worth at either age. If the calf is a heifer, and of good milking strain, it will usually sell for more at two years old with a calf than a steer at the same age. But this does not make a profitable business, even with the best of success in breeding. If the cow should prove a failure for milk or butter, as natives from the best strains often do, there is the loss of another year's keeping before the animal can be fit for the butcher.

The principal loss is in keeping the calf till it is a year old. Very often a fat calf at six or seven months will sell for about as much as the same animal kept a year longer. It is a mistake to suppose that calves can be kept cheaply in good thrifty condition. A good deal may be done with outland made into porridge as a substitute for milk; but if we count the labor and time lost in feeding, the calf will be a dear one after a year of such keeping. If not fed well the first year, the calf will soon become unthrifty, and can never be made a good animal.

Milkmen never raise their own cows, and the same used to be true of butter and cheese and dairymen. The increasing difficulty of buying the choicest dairy cows has forced some good dairymen to raise them; but they all consider the method a costly one, more costly than they could afford if they had any other alternative. For a good milk cow, known to be a deep and continuous milker, a dairyman will offer what may seem to many farmers an almost fabulous price. They can well afford to do so. The cheapest native cows I ever knew, were two which my father bought years and years ago, paying the seemingly extortionate price of \$99 for one and \$100 for the other. One was four and the other five years old. They proved to be really remarkable milkers, holding to their milk through the year. One time one of the cows (by mistake) milked till the day she calved. Usually a rest of three to five weeks was given without milking. The heifer calves of these cows were all good milkers, and most of them kept up to the supply of milk till near calving. Of such cows, I need hardly say that the calves should all be raised, unless very evidently inferior.

It costs little more to keep a good milking cow than a poor one. The difference in product is sometimes enough in a single year to pay the price of a good cow, rather than accept a poor milker as a gift. The time that a cow will go dry is often a matter of great importance. Some cows which yield a fair mess at first will not milk more than six or seven months per year. Such a cow is scarcely worth owning, except to fatten for beef. The length of time a cow may be milked depends much on previous management. If a heifer is milked after her first calf as long as possible, and has good milk-producing food to stimulate the flow of milk, she will retain this habit through life.

More care should be taken in feeding and milking heifers on this account. Give them roots, and milk as long as a drop can be got. I like to have her fers come in the first time when not over two years old, and a little younger if possible. Then let them go farrow several months, so that the heifer may get greater size, also to let the milk secretion run on as long as possible, unchecked by new milk coming in. In this way, if a heifer is naturally a good milker, she has the best chance to test her capacity, and also increase it.

Much depends on the way a cow has been kept. Cows accustomed to a great variety of food are invariably good eaters and almost always heavy milkers. Thus, the best cows in a neighborhood are usually those of poor men whose one cow is made a pet of, and has all sorts of food.

Such cows are usually a good bargain at almost any price, though they will rarely do as well when taken from their own old homes and turned in with the less varied fare according to larger herds. Milkmen have learned that it is important to keep a variety of food. Hence, their purchase of bran, meal, roots and oil-cake. It may not pay farmers to take so much pains, but they can promote the thrift of their herds and their own profits by changing the animal food as often as possible.

W. J. P.
Monroe County, N. Y.

Fidelity.
Desert not your friend in danger or distress. Too many there are in the world whose attachment to those they call friends is confined to the day of their prosperity. As long as that continues, they are, or appear to be, affectionate and cordial. But as their friend is under a cloud, they begin to withdraw and separate their interests from his. In friendship of this sort, the heart assuredly has never had much concern. For the great test of true friendship is, constancy in the hour of danger—adherence in the season of distress, then is the time openly and boldly to espouse his cause. When his situation is changed, or misfortune is fast gathering around him, then is the time of affording prompt and zealous aid. When sickness or infirmity occasions him to be neglected by others, that is the opportunity which every real friend will seize of redoubling all those affectionate attentions which love suggests. There are the important duties, the sacred claims of friendship, which religion and virtue enforce on every worthy mind. To show yourselves warm in this manner in the cause of your friend, commands esteem even in those who have personal interests in opposing him. This honorable zeal of friendship has, in every age, attracted the veneration of man-

kind. It has consecrated to the latest posterity the names of those who have given up their fortunes and have exposed their lives in behalf of the friends whom they loved; while ingominy and disgrace have even been the portion of those who deserted their friends in the hour of distress.

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"I have used Tutt's Pills for years for the liver. They are unequalled for constipation, biliousness, &c."—SAYRE & CO., Charleston, S. C.
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"There is no medicine so well adapted to the cure of bilious disorders as Tutt's Pills."
O. S. BRUMMEL, Richmond, Virginia.
AND A THOUSAND MORE.
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It cures foot rot, hoof ail, hollow horn, grub, scurf, worm, abscess, mange, the bite and sting of poisonous reptiles and insects, and every such drawback to stock breeding and husbandry.

It cures every external trouble of horses, such as lameness, scratches, swellings, sprains, contusions, wind-gall, ring-bone, etc., etc.

The Mexican Mustang Liniment is the quickest cure in the world for accidents occurring in the family, in the absence of a physician, such as burns, scalds, sprains, cuts, etc., and for rheumatism and stiffness caused by exposure. Particularly valuable to miners.

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